

AMERICAN FARMER.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICES CURRENT.

"O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint
Agricolus." . . . VIRG.

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AGRICULTURE.

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HOLKHAM GRAND ANNUAL Sheep Shearing Meeting, &c.

THIRD DAY.

(Concluded from No. 31, Vol. II. page 242.)

Lord Albemarle rose, and requested that Mr. Holdich would also state where he procured it? And why it was called *Russel-grass*?

Mr. Holdich began by observing, that it had long been a reproach to the agricultural world, that so little had been done in the cultivation of grasses; that only one, or at most two, had been separately cultivated, out of 200 and odd species, which Botanists assured us were capable of cultivation in Great Britain; and that accident seemed to have directed the choice, even in these. But this was a very exaggerated statement, for the number worth cultivating did not amount to twenty; and of these, if the question be confined to a grass for lays (that is, to a single grass, or separate grass,) the choice would again be very much narrowed by the indispensable properties it must possess. It was truly observed by Mr. Sinclair (in his *Hortus Gramineus Woburnensis*;) that "there was no such thing as any single grass that was superior in every particular to all others;" but if this were otherwise (said Mr. H.) such grass might be quite inapplicable to lays by the defects of its seed. A single grass should certainly be early, plentiful, of constant verdure, and of nutritious quality; all these properties belong to the Foxtail, the Cocksfoot, and perhaps to the Meadow Fescue, and in a great degree to several others, (as the Meadow Cat-tail, and tall Oat-grass.) But a single grass must possess two indispensable properties, even if something in its total annual value be sacrificed:—1st, Its seed must be such as may be got and thrashed like grain, and be readily dressed or cleaned so as to keep it true: without this, the grass could not become general, nor the seed be obtained at a convenient price. The other property indispensable in a grass for lays is, that it should bear exposure and removal; that is, that it should be tolerably well adapted to all soils. Now the Cat-tail or Timothy was adapted to clayey land, and to moory or fen land, but would hardly succeed at all on gravelly or dry soils: the Foxtail had also an affection for moisture, but it was principally disqualified by its seeds being chaffy, and often abortive. To make short of the subject.—Mr. H. observed, that chaffy seeds, and those which are *awned*, and those which are small and light, necessarily prevented their being dressed and kept true, inasmuch that the grass could not be kept single, nor its seeds be kept clean. It was observed by Sir John Sinclair, in his Code of Agriculture, that "we should look for a single grass among the superior varieties of the *Lolium perenne*;"—and this Mr. H. remarked, was a striking proof of the sagacity of the author; it was, moreover, supported by cotemporary facts, for more than one sort of improved perennial rye-grass had been offered to the public. Mr. H. stated, on the authority of a practical farmer (Mr. Waistell,) that Pacey's rye-grass was much superior to the common. Whether that advertised by Mr. Ruck was the same variety, he did not know, nor which variety any of them were; but Mr. Sinclair had received several parcels under the name of Pacey's which he had tried in the Grass Garden at Woburn, but not any two of them were the same.—

Mr. H. lamented that the name of *Rye-grass* should ever have been used, for the grass was not botanically akin to rye, neither was it like that grain in the spike. There were but three named varieties known to Botanists, none of which were well adapted to lays, because of their inaptitude to bear change of place; but it was true that the old Rye-grass, the common sort, was the very worst, that is, the least productive of them all: its seed had been obtained originally, because it is more common on highland meadows than the superior varieties, and heavier than other grass seeds; so that by letting it down before the wind, it had been obtained separately, and spread all over the kingdom. But there were several other permanent varieties of *Lolium perenne* (the seeds of all which are smooth and heavy,) and this which he now offered by the name of *Russel-grass*, he believed to be the best: he commenced the cultivation of it in 1811. Knowing the old Rye-grass to be very deficient, and observing a grass that resembled it in the spike, but carrying always a plentiful bite of herbage with the culms, he took a single tuft of it that grew by the side of an old pasture, where the stock could not very well reach it: it had then ripe seeds (being in September,) and plenty of leaf, with deep roots, very different from the common sort: from this tuft he had raised his stock; but having last August sowed eight acres (for which the land had been purposely summer-fallowed,) the season being dry and the land very light, it did not vegetate until October; its growth was checked by the early frosts, and the severe winter killed it; so that the land was ploughed up this spring, and sown with spring wheat. This was, however, not much to be lamented, for he had two acres yet remaining, which would be thrashed the present summer; and he had sowed Pacey's rye-grass upon the spring wheat, which would give him the opportunity of knowing whether they differed, and how much. Mr. H. concluded with an apology for occupying the attention of a company in which so many others had a much superior claim: am most attached.—(Applauses.) It was upon the tip of my tongue yesterday, and you do not know what grass had been sent three years ago to the Duke of Bedford's Grass Garden, where it was still growing by the side of the common *Lolium perenne*; but not being one of the named varieties, Mr. Sinclair had called it *Russelliana* which was the origin of its name, he (Mr. Sinclair) having wished from the commencement of his experiments, to find a grass that might perpetuate the meritorious exertions of his Grace the Duke of Bedford in this particular pursuit. "This (added Mr. H.) has been so far my good fortune; my fore-fathers and myself have had the happiness of being tenants on his Grace's estate for many years, and the name of *Russell* (a name ever dear to the bosoms of all Englishmen) (applause) may, I hope, appear well applied to an important object in improved agriculture."

The Marquis of Downshire then begged leave to give his noble friend "Earl Talbot," which was drank with great applause.

Mr. Coke then rose and observed, that some small matter of misunderstanding had arisen from what his noble friend the Earl of Albemarle had said the other day. It had been supposed that he (Lord Albemarle) had meant to assert that no relief could be had for the distresses of agriculture but by increased production, and the consideration of the landowners. His Lordship had said no such thing; but knowing his (Mr. Coke's) delicacy in a point which had been made a subject of calumny, he (Lord Albemarle) had been so prudently reserved as to be misunderstood. "My opinion (said Mr. Coke) has been given in writing, and therefore I need not repeat it. Lord Erskine has spoken very ably and very fully to the point.

our difficulties, I must add, are solely owing to taxation; and until the root of the evil is removed, no effectual relief is to be had." Mr. Coke concluded by giving—"Lord Albemarle, Lady Amelia Keppell, and the House of Quidenham."

Lord Albemarle rose, amidst thunders of applause, and returned his thanks in a most feeling manner for the very numerous and affectionate marks of favour and good opinion which he always received in that house. After what had fallen from his hon. friend, he must offer a few remarks on the course to which he had confined himself the day before, and which it appeared had been misunderstood. His Lordship adverted to the business of the day as a reason for being as brief as possible; but he was vexed, and he could not help saying very much vexed, that any reverse of his should produce misconstruction: he had been often blamed for speaking out, and now he had, for the first time, used a prudent caution for reasons already given, he was in danger of censure from persons for whom he had the highest respect. His Lordship was aware of his many faults, but this was undoubtedly a new fault, that of not speaking openly and expressing his opinions freely: this was what his Lordship never expected to be charged with.—(Cheers.) "I should have thought (continued his Lordship) that I had been sufficiently abused for having spoken my mind upon former occasions; and now for the first time that I have sinned on the other side I am subject to misrepresentation. These are the first fruits of my prudence, a lesson which I have very lately learned, and which I am ready to discard for any good it has done me. It was from the awkwardness and novelty of the attempt that I blundered yesterday; it was not very pleasant for me to make, nor for you to listen to, the speech which I hobbled through; so I am determined to cast the garb aside that fits me so ill, and appear in the dress in which I am known, and in which I am proud to say that I have always met the approbation of the people to whom I am most attached.—(Applauses.) It was upon the tip of my tongue yesterday, and you do not know what it cost me to keep it in,—but out it shall now come,—for I am determined that there shall be no misunderstanding between me and the Norfolk Yeomanry."—(Loud Applause.) His Lordship then recapitulated the heads of his former speech, and brought to the recollection of the company the particular passage of it in which he had been understood to say, that the farmers could only look for relief to increase of production, and the liberality of their landlords: these must undoubtedly be desirable; every one knew how to appreciate them who came to Holkham.—(Applauses.)—But these were not all. He had also observed how important were the details of a farm, and that great attention ought to be paid, and much good might result from a careful execution of all the operations; these were undoubtedly of importance to increased production, and to the employment of the poor; and nobody would say that it was not desirable that both these should be considered at the present time, and at all times. But these were times of peculiar difficulty to the farmer, and upon this point he had been misunderstood. He perfectly agreed with his hon. friend, that no political discussion should be introduced, or provoked at that meeting, and therefore he had stopped with the general statement; but he had never said, that the improved attention he had recommended was of itself sufficient for the relief and prosperity of agriculture.—(Applauses.) But he would now say, what he then suppressed, that taxation, excessive taxation, was the cause of the distress, and the only effectual relief was the reduction of taxation. Having come to this point, he would ask whether his meaning was set

right; for if not, he would repeat it until he was fully understood.—(Applause.) He would repeat, however, that he did not look to extravagant prices as the best mode of relief: he could not expect relief to the farmers in what would be injurious to the country at large, to commerce, and manufactures.—No, it was excessive taxation that was the cause of the evil, and relief from that could be the only cure. His Lordship was sorry to detain the company so long, (*Hear, hear!*) and should conclude with a word or two on what fell from his hon friend yesterday. His hon. friend had said, that the surest way to improvement was *finding fault*: now, he had two or three faults to find, in which he thought the company would all agree. In the first place, he found fault with his hon. friend, that the duration of the meeting was too short; because there was no time spent so pleasingly to his hon. friend—there was no time when he received such gratification, or when he felt so happy or so proud, as during those few days. (*Applause.*) In the next place, he found fault with the Earl of Leicester, (although it could not be said to rest on his shoulders,) who was not aware of the hospitality of his successor when he built this mansion.—(*Applause*;) he found fault with him, however, because he did not happen to build it capacious enough to contain the eager and delighted guests, who pressed there to learn that which was for the good of the country. His Lordship concluded by observing, that they would all join him in one wish, (which he expressed now because he should not have another opportunity of addressing the company,) which was, “Long may he enjoy health and happiness; long may he live to entertain us all here, and may all of you prosper in your undertakings, and live long to come and see him.”—(*Long and loud applause.*)

Mr. Coke returned thanks in the most kind and affectionate manner, and gave the health of “Captain Edghill,” which was drunk with applause. This was followed by that of “Admiral Lukin and his Son, Mr. Beevor, and his friends from that part of the country.”

Mr. Lukin returned thanks for the honour conferred upon his father and himself; and, though young, he was sensible of the value of good report, and anxious to deserve it. He added a suitable compliment to Mr. Coke, in an easy and graceful manner, and conceived in elegant language.

Mr. Beevor also returned thanks.

Sir John Sinclair rose, and begged permission to propose a toast: previous to proceeding to read the adjudication of the premiums, he hoped the toast would thus appear in its proper place, and he knew of no individual, who for his excellent understanding and useful talents, and especially for his connection with the objects of this meeting, and his contribution to the comfort and gratification of the company, that better deserved such a mark of esteem. Sir John concluded by proposing the health of “Mr. Blaikie,” which was drunk with great applause.

Mr. Coke returned thanks in Mr. Blaikie's name, and took occasion to repeat some circumstances relative to the origin of his (Mr. Blaikie's) present situation, which were highly creditable to his character.

Mr. Coke then proceeded to read the adjudications, and to present the plate to the successful candidates, which he performs with a grace peculiar to himself.—The singularity is, that he gives away his own premiums, and that with so many encouraging words to those upon whom they are bestowed, and so many thanks for their attention and exertions, that he appears all the while to be receiving a favour. In the course of this business Mr. Cooke occasionally gave toasts, and he also expressed his thanks to those gentlemen who had been so kind as to send some highly meritorious extra stock.

The health of Dr. Rigby being drunk, the Doctor addressed Mr. Coke to the following effect:—“Allow me, Mr. Coke, to thank you for proposing my health to be drunk by a company of such high consideration as the present; allow me, also, to thank you for having afforded me an opportunity of again witnessing one of the most interesting and instructive scenes

which, I will venture to say, was ever exhibited in this or any other country; and to express the satisfaction and delight I have had in attending you over your beautiful domain, in viewing the highly cultivated state of your farms, and the exuberant crops which now cover them. I have, indeed, more than once before enjoyed the pleasure of viewing these striking objects; but believe me, Sir, I return to them with renewed satisfaction. I every year witness new improvements. I see new implements and new processes; and there is one which I saw yesterday, which I cannot avoid a little dwelling upon; it was the depositing pond weeds, in their fresh state, as manure, into furrows on which Swedish turnips were to be sown. Sir, this judicious practice has been advocated by Dr. Darwin and Sir Humphrey Davy, for they have both recommended, that all articles of manure should be placed in the earth before they have undergone much decomposition, that their fertilizing principles may not prematurely be suffered to escape, nor their virtue wasted in the desert air; but that this important process should go on under circumstances in which they can be most fully applied to the promotion of vegetation. It appears to me, that this prompt method is peculiarly proper in the case of pond weeds; for I have observed how rapidly they undergo change, on an incipient decomposition, on being exposed to light and air, losing in a short time their green colour and becoming white, and which I believe chemists consider as being produced by oxygenation, by the absorption of oxygen, and probably by the simultaneous escape of another principle, highly promotive of vegetable growth, now termed nitrogen. I have said, Sir, that your crops are most abundant. I will notice an immense one of wheat near the cottages, in a field which I recollect last year to have been completely covered with a thick and rich crop of clover, and which by its having excluded light from the surface of the soil, may, on a principle a little allied to that I have just alluded to, have had some share in producing this admirable crop. For I believe it is universally admitted by farmers, that in clover crops when there are partial failures, which leave the earth bare in spots, the wheat there constantly fails. I must further mention, my having again seen your labourers' cottages. I may be allowed to say, that our best feelings cannot fail to be interested in beholding them—in seeing comforts and enjoyments within the reach of a class of human beings who generally suffer much privation, and in all ages, and in all countries, have been hardly dealt with: it was most gratifying to see so many marks of their favoured lot in these happy dwellings, and I will mention one noticed by Mr. Curwen. We were equally delighted in viewing the little spots of neat and highly cultivated garden ground annexed to each cottage, when Mr. Curwen observed to me, in pointing out some roses and other flowers, which decorated those gardens, that he always considered flowers in a poor man's garden as marks of his general well doing, for they were luxuries, and no poor man would think of luxuries if he had not a due share of necessities. I could enlarge much on many other equally interesting subjects, but time wears away, and I know, Sir, you have much to do, I will therefore only again thank you, and that most sincerely, for the high gratification I have just enjoyed.”

Mr. Coke then proposed the health of “Mr. Sheriff Taylor, and prosperity to the City of Norwich.”

The next toast was Mr. Sheriff Taylor, who, in returning thanks, spoke a considerable time on the favourable state of manufactures in Norwich, and addressed a number of observations to the company on the subject of long and short wool. He thanked Mr. Coke for the good wishes he always expressed for the prosperity of the city of Norwich, and observed that manufactures had sometimes been described as the misletoe that grew on the oak of agriculture. He did not know in what sense this might be meant, but he was sure that the population and industry of manufactures were a great source of advantage to the prices of agricultural produce, and to the prosperity of the kingdom. Mr. Sheriff Taylor instanced this particularly in the increased

demand for wool, and its enhanced price within his recollection. Referring to his father's books, he found that the same wool which was now worth from 45s. to 59s. had been formerly sold for 7s. Mr. Sheriff Taylor went into a variety of other particulars, where our limited space will not allow us to follow him.

Mr. Coke here repeated his observations on the importance of crossed teg-fleeces; he thought it might answer a temporary purpose, and as he was ever ready to profit by the hints of others, or their example, he intended to try it; but he was satisfied that the Downs would be worth more per lb. than the crosses, and they might partly lose by mutton what they should gain by wool. Mr. Coke then stated that the Merino breeders he believed were doing the same; and it was much to say that those sheep could be turned to account in any way. He had tried them three years and tried them fairly; he had tried them also when wool was dear, and here he found that what he gained by wool, he lost by mutton. He had a flock of 500, and his wool bill one season came to £830; this was a fact, but it was an extraordinary thing, and don't apply to the present times; if, notwithstanding, he had laid them aside, as carrying bad mutton, and very little of it, he did it from the actual experience that they were not so profitable a breed of stock as Downs, under the most favourable circumstances; he therefore discarded them: he threw a little disgrace upon them, indeed, but they might else have brought disgrace upon him. Mr. Coke concluded with observing that he never decided but by experience, and never recommended any thing but for the good of the community. He bore testimony to the truth of Lord Alberman's observation, that those days were the happiest of his life, and the attendance and attention they received were a credit to the character of Englishmen: “and now (said Mr. Coke) we will go to business again.” Here the premiums to the shepherds were awarded; after which the extra premiums were presented.

On receiving a piece of plate from Mr. Coke, Mr. Grisenthwaite addressed a few words to the company: and observed that the learned Dr. Rigby had spoken on the points to which he should else have adverted; the learned Doctor was perfectly right in his observations, and agriculturists would do well to attend to the principles laid down. Mr. G. added some observations in explanation of his New Theory of Agriculture.

Mr. Coke next gave the health of Mr. Curwen, observing that the pleasure he took in seeing so eminent an agriculturist at the meeting induced him to give his health a second time.

Mr. Curwen in rising to return thanks, repeated his admiration of the improvements of Holkham agriculture: the kind manner in which his health had been proposed and drunk, called forth his gratitude, and he was sorry that he could not do justice to the exhilarating and delightful scenes that lay around him. It was from this spot that he (Mr. Curwen,) first imbibed the taste of rural improvements, and here he had been taught their advantages, and strengthened in the spirit with which he had nursed them. He begged to relate an anecdote of an ancient painter who, it was said, walked to Rome, to view the works of the great Raphael. After contemplating some of his master-pieces for a length of time—he exclaimed “I too am a painter!”—“So I, Sir, (said Mr. Curwen,) hesitate not in assigning to you, and your coadjutors the first place, while I am not disposed to place myself second to any other farmers in the kingdom for what has been effected in comparatively a few years.” Mr. Curwen next took a view of the opposition he had met with in his exertions, and the imputations cast upon his proceedings and their tendency; imputations which he spurned from him with contempt. “Can the encouragement of agriculture (said Mr. Curwen) whereby human comforts and happiness are extended, be a channel to make men less devoted to the country? Or will being happy make them more disposed to risk the loss of it? But I have left the defence of my conduct against these senseless calumnies to the good

sense of the country, and the result has been the proudest reward that can be bestowed upon an individual." He next alluded to Mr. Coke's known wish to avoid all subjects of observation that might have a political tendency, and promised in the remarks that he should make, to adhere strictly to that rule; but he could not omit to speak at large on a subject which he hoped was appropriate to such a meeting, (and he begged Mr. Coke to stop him instantly if he exceeded the limits very properly prescribed,) the subject of protection to agriculture. This was no party question; it was a question that concerned the very existence of agriculture, the importance of which was omnipotent, for with the decline of its prosperity every thing must fall. Even now the improvements were at a stand, and these delightful scenes can be no longer an example to be followed when the means are at an end. If relief were not granted to the farmer, the decline of agriculture would be more rapid than its rise, and sterility must follow abundance. Mr. Curwen then made a powerful and impassioned appeal to Mr. Coke, on the steps necessary to be pursued at this juncture, adding that he scorned to snatch a laurel from his (Mr. Coke's) brows to bind it on his own; and that he did but his duty in thus bringing forward the most important interest of the empire. [We are truly sorry thus to abridge a speech which was received throughout with great applause, but the advanced shades of the evening rendered our notes almost illegible.] Mr. Curwen went on to notice the subject that called for an explanation from the Earl of Albemarle, whose wise views and liberal sentiments were known to every one; he (Mr. C.) had not misunderstood his Lordship, but he did not think he had spoken fully to the point in question. It was true that more attention to the minutæ of good farming was desirable; "But are these to be expected (said Mr. Coke) at the moment of impending ruin? Will, or ought men to embark more capital, if they could command it, when they daily and hourly see it diminishing? Must we be silent then, for fear of being misrepresented, and not attempt to avert the evil which threatens not only us but the whole people of England? Sir, I feel it an imperious duty to speak fully on this subject, and I must notice with sorrow the reception it has twice met with in Parliament, where the question has been kicked out of the House without the least inquiry into its merits. It is true, we have succeeded better this Session; we have gained an immense advantage; we have obtained a hearing which must necessarily lead to investigation. I do not know how to estimate the indefatigable exertions of that individual who has formed and combined so large and respectable a body of agriculturists—the service he has rendered to his country is above all estimate I can make of them—I regret his absence this day. Now, Sir, the question is, shall we cherish, or shall we throw cold water on these exertions?" Mr. Curwen then censured the supineness of the landed interest, and contrasted their conduct with that of commercial men who were ever combined and active in the defence of themselves, by which means they had gained a preponderance to which they were not entitled by their superior importance to the state. Mr. Curwen then related the anecdote so often alluded to, of Sir Robt. Walpole, who likened the agriculturists to sheep which submitted patiently to be shorn of their valuable fleeces? but touch a hair of the other's ears, and they started up like the quills of a porcupine. He stated some strong observations on the cruelty and impolicy of the course pursued in this case, and added his firm belief in the allegations of the numerous petitions of the farmers; nevertheless, he deprecated high prices of food, and thought it would be mischievous to press on the labouring classes. No nation could flourish, or society exist, where the great body of the people were suffering; if humanity did not lead us to measures of relief, yet interest must. He next drew a picture of the intelligence, spirit, and loyalty of the people, but deprecated the consequences of distress and want, as incompatible with the spirit of subordination, and dangerous to the safety of the State.

"I call on every man (said Mr. C.) to put forth his hand to support the plough! It is to the practice of agriculture, and its extension, that you must look to give employment to those thousands of hands who are now pining with broken spirits on parochial relief! I claim pre-eminence for agriculture as the branch which affords the widest field of human industry. Sir, let no man mistake me: I know and feel the value of commerce, and the importance of manufactures; but food is more necessary than merchandize, or even than apparel." He therefore called upon the Legislature to devise means of relief to save us from impending ruin! "What is the study of every farmer in the Empire (continued Mr. C.) at this time? Is it not to economise,—to lessen the number of hands that are employed—to save labour—to send the honest industrious man from his service—to curtail the comforts that we have, seen in your cottages, and which ought to be enjoyed by all industrious men? Even I am obliged, for the sake of prudence, so to arrange my business as to expend less by £500 in labour this year; but out of whose pockets do I substract this money,—certainly out of those of the labouring classes, who spend it again in necessities, and spread it in all the channels of business." Mr. C. then proceeded to shew how this augmented the poor-rates, and how one evil increased another; and then made a transition to the funds, which were exempt from such contribution, which was the cause of the severe pressure upon the land, and upon the industrious classes. He could see no reason in justice which ought to exempt the funds from bearing their due proportion of the burdens of the country nor how it was possible it should be otherwise, when their annual amount equalled the rental of the soil. He described the pressure of this system upon the poor, whose scanty earnings were so taxed in consequence, that their wages were inadequate to their subsistence. From all this, he drew the conclusion that the burthens must be lifted from their shoulders, and placed upon those of the rich, insisting that it was required by justice no less than by political wisdom, that a property tax should be submitted in lieu of those duties which bore so hard upon the necessities of life. Returning again to the subject of agriculture, he fully agreed with his honourable friend (Mr. Coke,) that we could grow grain enough for our own consumption. During the war, the great prices of produce brought into action that amount of capital and industry which soon raised our supply above the measure of our wants. Due encouragement and wise measures would do so again; but our present declining and insecure state must make us dependent upon foreigners. He had heard it asserted in Parliament, and he heard it with dismay and astonishment, that the importation of foreign corn was in no way the cause of the low prices; because when the ports were shut in July, 1819, there was very little foreign grain on hand. But it was universally admitted that the cultivation of wheat was considerably diminished and the people must have been, to a most calamitous extent, driven to subsist on foreign food. But he was credibly informed that the statement he alluded to was very incorrect, and that near Mark-lane 50,000 quarters of wheat might have been found in very few hands. He contended, that the necessary relief, if granted, would lay the foundation of prosperity for all, and make the face of Nature smile as it did in the neighbourhood of Holkham. He was fully aware of the importance of trade and manufactures, nor did he lose sight of their interest in the proceeding he advocated. He took a view of the importance of the home market, and he drew from the sources which have been published, a relative statement of the property, taxation, and numerical amount of the several industrious classes of society; thence concluding, that we must build our national strength and happiness on the prosperity of agriculture. He next adverted to the subject of *free trade*, and agreed with the noble lord (Erskine) in what had been said in regard to it; to which he would add, that while we paid three times the amount of taxation that foreigners did, it was in vain to hope that the skill, capital, or intelligence of the British-farmer could

contend with such fearful odds. Mr. Curwen concluded a long and vehement speech by confessing, that he had greatly exceeded the limits he ought to have observed but he spoke in the presence of the first friends of agriculture, and a most numerous body of its enlightened practitioners; and he would not have done justice to his feelings, nor have acquitted himself conscientiously, if he had not gone over the ground which he had occupied. [Here, turning towards M. Coke, he observed that gentleman to shake his head.] "I see (added Mr. Curwen) my hon. friend does not wholly approve of what I have said. Accustomed, however, as he knows I am to speak my sentiments fully and freely on all occasions, he will forgive me if I have erred or infringed any wise regulations of his, add impute it to my head and not my heart." Mr. Curwen concluded with proposing Mr. Coke's health, and adding a sentiment, "That as he was foremost in promoting agricultural improvement, he might also be first in promoting its protection."

Mr. Coke returned thanks, and made some observations upon the nature and extent of the speech just delivered. It was not necessary for him to express himself at large, nor speak to the particular points which had been strongly, but he thought, on that occasion, not very properly stated: his opinions, in relation to the whole of those questions, were known to the public, and he judged it unfit to enter into any explanation. He gave due praise to Mr. Curwen for honesty and integrity, but he certainly did not and could not agree to the course recommended. He should say no more on the subject as he considered it out of place to enter into such discussions.

The Rev. Mr. Glover said a few words against that part of Mr. Curwen's remedy, which went to include a property tax. After which, General Walpole rose to exonerate his ancestor, Sir Robert, from the odium of having uttered that sarcastic description of the agricultural and commercial classes; the fact was, that during his whole administration he was a great friend to the agricultural interest. The anecdote, itself, which had so often been repeated, was taken from the works of Soame Jennings, who might be the author of it, and who only fathered it upon the Minister of that time to give a sort of historical authenticity.—Mr. Curwen acknowledged that the General was right as to the author.

Mr. Coke then rose to deliver his farewell address: he recapitulated the objects of agricultural improvement and pointed the attention to what yet remained to be done. The Down Sheep—the Devon Cattle—Drilling—Inoculation—and other points, came successively under review, and suitable comments were made upon each. He made some judicious observations on sowing wheat on lays; observing that it had been found that by ploughing early, and sowing on the stale furrow, the land was more solid to receive the seed; the face of the furrow-slice being turned down, had had time to rot, and adhere to the subsoil, and the wheat got firmer hold; on the contrary, by late ploughing, and sowing immediately, the flag lay hollow, and the wheat suffered thereby in winter. Mr. Coke then thanked the company for their attendance, and repeated his hearty and hospitable invitation, and concluded with the health of "His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex" which was received with a burst of applause, accompanied by long and loud huzzaing.

His Royal Highness, in rising to make his acknowledgments for the warm and kind manner in which his health had been proposed and received, would only say that every moment which he spent in the county of Norfolk was highly delightful; every token of their affection increased the obligation he was under to Mr. Coke and the gentlemen of the county. It had been said that the close of the meeting produced something of a melancholy effect; but he did not conceive that it ought to be so, if we looked back to the good purposes for which such a meeting was instituted, and the improvements which had risen from it; when he considered the effects, he thought the eye of Providence was upon them, and the blessings of Heaven were shed on the efforts of the bounteous founder.—

His Royal Highness then commenced with great liberality and mildness on what had been said respecting the state of the country, and pressure of taxation:—"No one (said His Royal Highness) can lament more than I do, the existence of those taxes; at the same time I must confess that I differ as to the fitness of this occasion for the purpose of considering them: at most these things should be only glanced at, as they are not the objects of the meeting. Government, gentlemen, may be compared to a private family; industry, integrity, and social morality must be the bond of union and prosperity in both; and without these neither can long exist; these feelings have been forcibly impressed on my mind by every thing I have seen at Holkham. When I consider the warmth, the hospitality of my hon. friend's reception, it gives additional lustre to his name and character. The Noble Lord (Lord Albemarle) was perfectly right in finding fault with Lord Leicester, in not building the Hall sufficiently capacious to hold all the friends he had the happiness to see here." His royal Highness then spoke of the village of Holkham in terms of the most feeling praise and satisfaction; he spoke of the beautiful gardens—the clean rooms—the neat furniture and contented faces—in terms that bespoke the most human heart and thinking mind, and pointed the praise of this benevolence to Mr. Coke in the most elegant and happy manner. The company were truly enraptured with the eloquence and sensibility manifested by the Royal visiter, whose speech was greeted with such acclamations as are paid to virtue by those who know its value. We regret that it grew so dark even in the beginning of this admirable speech, that our notes were almost wholly illegible, and were obliged to be discontinued long before its close. His Royal Highness concluded his address with a sentiment delivered in the most cordial and convivial manner.—"Happy do we meet—sorry do we part—and happy may we meet again." His Royal Highness was cheered as he left the room, and the company separated.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

SMUT.

To JOHN SKINNER, Esq.

Salem, Stoke's County, N. C.
October 15, 1820.

SIR—Although no farmer in any point of view, I read your inestimable publication with no small degree of interest, not only as it often communicates information tending to elucidate those particular scientific pursuits, which occupy my leisure hours, but from a conviction of its eminent influence in promoting the best interests of our common country.

Unable directly to contribute towards the furtherance of the main objects thereof, I conceived it might nevertheless be acceptable to communicate such general, although merely scientific observations, on a subject frequently discussed in your columns, as appear not sufficiently understood by the practical gentlemen chiefly interested; persuaded that acquaintance with the results of the more minute researches of those, who make any branch of natural science their peculiar study, cannot fail of being useful to such, engaged in practical life, have no leisure for mere scientific investigation.

I allude to the frequent mention of the *Smut in grain*, concerning the nature of which destructive evil, such contrary opinions appear to prevail, as necessarily must distract those, who are endeavouring to remedy its deleterious effects. The authority of scientific men cited in favour of any particular theory, concerning

the nature of such an evil, whether it be a fungus, or a malady, or the effect of some insect &c. while it stands recorded as an isolated assertion is not calculated to operate universal conviction. It is only by putting the reflecting farmer in possession of the whole train of established facts in their scientific connexion, that you enable him to come to a convincing conclusion of his own, which then will prove a solid basis for experiments. After having mentioned to you, in vindication of my presumption in this respect, that Mycology or the study of that part of Botany, which occupies itself with the investigation of the immense tribe of Fungi: has for many years been my favourite one, both during a long residence in Europe and since; I shall proceed to communicate what at this time may be considered the established result of the labour of scientific men in this particular branch, with an immediate view to the *Smut in grain*, observing that such has of late years been the progress of this branch of Botany, heretofore very superficially attended to, that the conceptions of botanists of a more early day, cannot properly be received as controverting what has recently been discovered.

Without entering into a dissertation upon the nature, propagation and growth of the Fungi in general, a subject, which when fully understood, bids fair to shed a strong light on the whole theory of generation, it may be however proper to observe, that within the extensive range of an infinity of more or less complicate forms of funguous organizations, *nothing* analogous to the *seeds*, which constitute the germ of all other vegetating productions has been discovered. On the contrary, from the most minute microscopic fungus, species, nay families of which seem to be almost omnipresent throughout nature, wherever, and whenever the proper temperature and humidity combine to favour their evolution, up to the complicate and gigantic Fungus of three or four feet in diameter, the tendency of their vegetable life ends in the production of a fine seminata dust or powder, bearing the utmost analogy to the pollen of the flowers of the more perfect plants. Hence it is extremely probable that their propagation does not follow the laws of nature observable in the rest of vegetable creation, but a system of their own, dependent not only in a greater degree, but likewise in an entirely different manner on chemical actions and atmospherical influences. The whole mass of fungi, might probably be considered as an intermediate sphere, between the vegetable and the unorganised mineral creation: it would as such be inferior to neither in variety of species and form; for allow me to ob-serve by way of parenthesis, that under any favourable circumstances, the number of species of fungi, in any given district of country, is generally speaking superior to the number of species of all other vegetable productions together in the same district.

However that be, it may be assumed as an admitted fact, that a very great difference exists between the nature of these organizations and that of all other vegetation. A very great proportion of the Fungi, are what Botanists term parasitical—that is they vegetate on or in

other organic productions of a higher grade, either in a state of more or less decay, or even during the period of their organic life. Most of these are specifically bound to their respective matrices, that is the same species appears only upon certain or at most very nearly allied species of higher organised bodies, and this is particularly the case with those who are parasitical on living plants.

This latter description of Fungi consists of the most simple organic productions in nature, partaking of the vegetative principle. It is with great propriety, that recent botanists have called these *Entophytical* Fungi, their existence and life being closely united with the existence and life of their respective parent plants: they vanish and die together or within a short interval. Thus there appears a striking analogy between them in relation to the plants upon or in which they vegetate, and those entozoical animals, as for instance the intestinal worms, which bear the same relation to other larger animals in which they exclusively exist.

The entophytical Fungi (that is living in other plants,) comprehend a great number of widely distinct genera; but that family among them, which is at present more immediately before us, because the *Smut in grain* appertains to it—consists eminently of the most simple organizations, and forms the lowest order of beings on the scale of vegetating nature. This family recently called "*Coniomyci*" (dust Fungi) comprised under Persoon's family of *Desmatocarpi*, *Gymnospermi*, comprehends but three genera, of which two contain hitherto but few species, the other named by the latest mycologists "*Caenoma*" (*Aecidium* and *Uredo* of Persoon, combined) comprehends an infinite variety of species augmenting in number every day under the continued observations of the friends of science. This Genus is the one to which the *Smut* belongs. The general character thereof is, that all the fungi belonging to it are indigenous and parasitical in living plants of a higher grade or parts of such plants; they consist of a simple aggregation of more or less rounded microscopic grains, called "*Sporidias*" (the same which form the final product of every fungus) perfectly similar to the pollen of phænogamous plants. These sporidia are more or less highly coloured and invariably break forth from under the epidermis (or outer skin) of that part of the parental plant to which they are indigenous, after having visibly vegetated some time in their infant state underneath this epidermis. Their existence is for the most part coeval with that of the parental plant, and terminates with the decay thereof. The genus is subdivided, preserving its essential character throughout, according to the greater or less effect produced by the fungus upon the metamorphosis of the epidermis. In some, this is protruded into regular shaped excrescences, containing the sporidias—(*Roestelia Aecidium*;) in others it bursts simply and exposes to view the little heaps of sporidias (weeds) and in the subdivision to which the *Smut* directly belongs, it is greatly distended and misshapen before it burst irregularly and sheds abroad the fungical sporidias. The greater part of the Genus grow under the epidermis

of the green leaves of the plants, a few on the tender epidermis of the stalk or branches, and the subdivision comprehending the Smut in grain named *Ustilago* is absolutely confined in its matrix or place of parasitical growth to the seeds, or glumes, in which, but for its intrusion the seed of the plant it infests, would have been formed. This subdivision is entirely indigenous to the graminaceous plants, but very common among them. Most of our native grasses among the rest, the Carices (sedge-grasses) *Junci* (rushes) and others, are frequently infested by this fungus, and in all the grasses in common cultivation as grain, it is universally met with. I have observed the smut in the glumes of barley, oats, rye, wheat, spelts, in most kinds of pulse, and in an interesting and striking variety, in Indian Corn. All the fungi of this subdivision [*Ustilago*, German, *Brand*, i. e. (gangrene) French *gangrene**, English Smut] are of a colour verging from dark greenish to perfect black, whereas the Uredines and Aecidia very exceedingly through all shades of yellow, red, brown, purple and even white. Of the Uredines the most generally known is the Rust on the stalk and leaves of rye, wheat, &c.

The manner of evolution of the Smut in grain (*Caenoma Ustilago segetum* or according to Persoon *Uredo segetum*) is the following: Within the glume during the time of inflorescence the aggregation of infant sporidias makes its appearance, in the germ of what should become the grain, and distends the epidermis thereof until it becomes too thin to hold the accumulation of sporidias, which wholly occupy the place of the mealy part and probably receive their nurture from that. Finally the epidermis bursts, and the loose sporidias are dispersed. In the Indian corn (*zea*) the Smut may often be observed distending the epidermis of each single grain to an almost incredible size before it bursts. I have seen grains distended to a diameter of two inches, preserving nearly the original shape of the grain and rendering the distended epidermis so thin, that it became almost transparent. Whole ears of Indian corn become thus monstrously dilated and misshapen as will have been observed by most farmers.

My object in thus detailing to you the history of the Smut and its evolution in conjunction with the whole family of similar fungi, is chiefly this; to shew those who are unacquainted with Mycology, that the Smut in grain is by no

* Note. The Ergot of the French, although perhaps sometimes confounded with the smut, is an entirely different kind of affection, in which the whole grain grows to a monstrous length, blackens a little, but remains solid and affords not the least vestige of these naked sporidias which constitute smut. Whether the Ergot is likewise a fungus affection is not yet sufficiently ascertained; if it is it belongs to a very different family the Sclerotias, which has no connexion at all with the Coniomyces. There is besides the ergot, on several kinds of grain, but one other production of nature referable to the ergot as far as I have observed and that is indigenous to the glumes or seed of a kind of crabgrass (*Paopalum ciliatifolium* and other common *Paopalum*) and effects almost every individual in our vicinity. The ergot is called in German "Mutterkorn" that is Mother-corn.

means an isolated phenomenon in nature, but a member of a family of fungi widely spread throughout the whole connexion of plants that have affinity to grain, and immediately allied to other tribes of fungi, which are parasitical in all manner of other plants during their living state. This ought to do away all doubts as to the nature of the Smut and convince every reflecting mind that it is certainly a fungus. Such a conviction will then become of service in directing the investigation of the means to counteract its baleful effects on grain, towards the proper object, by cutting off at once all such as proceed upon some incorrect theory concerning its origin, and confining the attention to those which may be found effective in counteracting the causes favourable to the evolution of entophytical fungi. Experiment can alone guide to a discovery of such, and I have neither opportunity or ability to occupy myself therewith. But I shall beg leave to subjoin some desultory remarks, which have occurred to me in the course of my study of this family, in hopes that they may be serviceable to such gentlemen that are engaged in experiments for the useful purpose above mentioned, although I am sorry to observe the facts I shall have to allege appear not very favourable to a hope of shortly discovering an effectual preventive against the evil.

1. Some entophytical fungi on vegetable productions in general cultivation both in Europe and America, very common there, have never been found by me here on the same plants, but exclusively occur on similar plants here which are indigenous to America. For instance, the *Uredo rosea* which covers the leaves of the common garden rose in Europe, is never found upon it here, but very often occurs on the wild *Rosa parviflora*. The same may be said of the Aecidium cancellatum very common on cultivated pear trees in Europe and here never found except on the *Pyrus coronaria* or *augustifolia* &c. Others again and indeed most of the species grow both here and there in equal abundance on the same cultivated plant, as for instance the rust and the smut.

2. There appears to exist no general rule that the entophytical fungi prefer to live on such individuals of their parent plant as grow in poor soil or on such that grow rank. I find most species occur indiscriminately as to that circumstance. Some few only have a predilection for rank growing plants, a few others prefer the plants of impoverished growth.

3. But I have observed that in any particular spot in which individual plants of a particular species are in an extraordinary degree infested by their peculiar parasite, all those other plants which are subject to a similar parasite of their own, generally appear equally full of it; from which I infer, that the nature of the soil and the chemical processes in the atmosphere favourable to the evolution of one species of entophytical fungus, is so to most others.

4. I have further observed that particular spots, in which the entophytical fungi are common on their proper plants, are extremely regular in reproducing them every year; while the same plant is often entirely free from the

parasite at a small distance, and continues so from year to year.

5. The entophytical fungi of the leaves of perennial plants, shrubs and trees are sure to appear every year again on the same individual in which they have heretofore been found although not always in equal abundance.

6. Nothing that I have had an opportunity to observe, however, warrants the supposition, that the seeds of grain can take the infection from coming into contact with the fungus of the former year—as the sporidias perish utterly with the parental plant, and as the evolution of the fungus commences in the internal part of the plant, the epidermis always being the last destroyed.

I might add some other observations, but am afraid I have already presumed too much upon your patience.

I therefore remain yours &c.

LEWIS D. DE SCHWEINITZ.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

SALT.

My remarks on the quality of the salt prepared in the Western Country, being so far approved by you as to give them currency in your valuable paper, I am induced to give an account of the different processes adopted in the manufacture of that essential article of comfort. Believing that the method pursued by our Western brethren, will not produce a salt sufficient to answer the purpose of a condiment, a summary and comparative view of the means used in the preparation of that article may lead to improvement.

In the Western states, salt is produced from brine obtained from springs at a depth of from 100 to 500 feet below the surface, a small shaft of about 2 inches in diameter is sunk, with great labour through hard limestone, or granite, and generally this tedious operation is rewarded by a copious supply of salt water which rises to the surface; this phenomenon has not yet been accounted for, nor will speculative inquiry satisfy the inquisitive, it is reserved for Scientific investigation or fortuitous development. When upon trial, the brine is supposed to be of sufficient strength to risk the erection of works necessary for the production of salt, a furnace is built upon which are placed from 30 to 60 kettles of cast iron measuring each from 40 to 60 gallons, into which the brine is introduced by pipes; intense heat is applied which causes almost immediately, violent coction, the process is of short duration, the salt together with the earthy superfluities subside in the vessel, after the watery particles have evaporated which is removed to a place of deposit and the process is continued. By this very simple method the salt in the west is generally prepared.

The objections to this manner are the intense heat, producing violent coction and preventing the work of crystallization, and the size of the vessels being insufficient to admit of a separation of the impure or earthy parts, which should be skimmed from the surface, or taken up after they subside.

This process may be much improved, a different method may enable our manufacturers to

make a salt equally good in every particular as the foreign or imported, and they having the means within themselves, it is at least worth the experiment which if successful, will be a step towards independence, and an incalculable benefit to that section of our country.

The improved process adopted in Great Britain, is decidedly different from the above.—Large pans of from 40 to 60 feet in length, 30 to 40 feet in breadth, and 18 inches in depth are generally used, the application of heat is raised according to the sort or quality of salt intended to be made. The fine or common salt is evaporated at a heat of 226° Fahrenheit. The coarse or fishery salt, such as is requisite for preserving provisions, a gentle heat is applied not exceeding 112 Fahrenheit. In all cases, the impurities which appear on the surface or subside previous to crystallization, are removed.

The whole difference in the varieties of salt artificially prepared, arises in the application of heat; the fine salt is made by application of intense heat, the coarse by gentle warmth not exceeding the solar beams, that produced by the latter means approaches nearest to sea salt, such as is made at Turk's Island, and Cape de Verdes, &c. which is formed into large crystals by the rays of the sun acting on a still, shallow surface of sea water. This salt is preferred in preserving provisions, and the nearest imitation of the process of nature in preparing an artificial salt, experience has taught is the best; and a salt at least equal if not superior, may be made from brine springs by simply keeping that in view.

To the manufacturer of this article, this summary notice of the processes will be sufficient; without presuming on my information on this subject, I will endeavour to point out the means which I deem may be an improvement on the method now in use in the west.

Much benefit might be derived from taking advantage of our summer heat, by exposing in large cisterns or vats the brine from the springs, which would concentrate by spontaneous evaporation previous to its being admitted into the boiler—a few days operation of the sun's rays upon a shallow surface of salt water, would prepare it for the boiler, the greater part of the impurities would subside or could be removed from the surface; and the brine would be partly qualified for the process. The boilers should be of large size, and of such convenient breadth, that during the process of coction all impurities could be easily removed.—The furnaces should be so made, that heat could be applied at pleasure.—Such an arrangement would enable the manufacturer to prepare any description of salt from the common white salt used for domestic purposes, which requires great heat in its preparation, together with all the intermediate varieties between that and the coarse fishery salt, which can only be made by a gentle heat and slow process.

B.

Baltimore, October 11th, 1820.

LAND DISPUTES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MORNING CHRONICLE.

Sir.—The season has at length arrived when every class of society, from the castle to the cot-

tage, from the supreme court down to the low est tribunal of human justice, calls aloud for economy. I have long since viewed with regret, the tedious, tiresome and expensive mode of settling and adjusting land disputes in this state. Two neighbours for instance, differ in the lines, boundaries and titles of their lands, and each, perhaps, under the delusive influence of *self interest*, honestly and justly conceive his claim to be the best; at length, an ejectment is brought, lawyers must be employed and *feed*; a surveyor must be employed to lay down the claims and pretensions of the parties; each lawyer orders such and such locations to be made, to *illustrate* his client's claim, (or rather to perplex that of his adversary) finally the *trial term* arrives, anxiety is on tiptoe. The court beats to arms, the parties all assemble, a plat is produced, as large, as complicated, and as confused with lines and letters, as the map of Maryland; a jury is called to try the issue; three fourths of whom are as ignorant of location, as our cake-women are of astronomy. The counsel themselves on both sides, *try to appear alarmed* for their clients, and each proclaim his case much more doubtful, desperate and dangerous than he at first conceived it—*The old fees* have now become *rusty*, and require a little brightening up, in order to *invigorate the oratorical powers*, and ensure the property to *both parties*, (although but one can enjoy it;) finally the case is decided in the county court, from thence it is removed to the court of appeals, and perhaps from thence into chancery, where, after resting 5, 10, or 15 years, accumulating costs and expenses, it is *at last decided*; and probably from the *hard straining* of witnesses, or the *superiority of counsel*, the man who is justly entitled to the land, loses it, and he who gains it, pays five times as much for it as it is worth; such is the final result of the contest, and the parties return home side by side; the one a beggar on the road, and the other both unable and unwilling to help him; and far better would it be for the parties in every such case, to draw lots for the property in dispute, rather than contend for it in the present way, and be *legally robbed of all*, while only contending for a part.—Now, sir, as economy appears to be the order of the day, I would recommend that in lieu of all this tedious, tiresome, and expensive compound of *comedy, farce, and legal tragedy*, that land courts be established by the legislature, composed of 5 honest, judicious, upright men, who understand the location of lands, any three of whom (in case of *relationship or supposed partiality* in the other two) should form a court, and receive a moderate compensation for their services, and where any dispute should arise on the lines, boundaries or titles of any parties in the county where the land lies, let these courts repair to the premises, attend the surveyor, and deliberately view the connexion, the affinity, or dependancy that such tracts bear towards each other, and determine the dispute accordingly, leaving their decision, however, subject to such a *brief and cheap appeal*, as legislative wisdom may devise. After serving as a juror, in several ejectment cases, and as a commissioner frequently in the establishment of lines, boundaries, &c. of lands, I do not hesitate in saying, that in my humble opinion, the mode here proposed, would not only

more *brief and cheap*, but far more likely to promote justice in the end, than that which is now pursued. However, sir, I have no doubt, that many gentlemen of the bar may call me a *busy body* at last, if not something worse, for these suggestions, and rather adhere still to the grave digger's motto, *let some die that others may live*, than suffer such a law to infringe upon, their pocket privileges; be it so, nevertheless I do sincerely hope, that should a kind Providence bless the ensuing legislature with such a rarity as an *upright, consciencious and sympathetic lawyer*, that he may draft and procure such a law upon the subject, as may immortalize his name in the annals of justice and mercy, and prevent, in future, the distress of many a poor and helpless

WIDOW & ORPHAN.

CONSTITUTION OF THE

Roanoke Agricultural Society.

At a meeting of Gentleman at Clarksville on the first day of April 1820, to form an Agricultural Society, a committee being appointed to draft a Constitution and Rules for the government of the same, to be reported at their next meeting, the said committee make the following REPORT:

Art. 1. The Society shall be called the Roanoke Agricultural Society.

Art. 2. The object of the Society shall be to promote the interest and improvement of agriculture, husbandry and rural economy—

1st. By supporting its rights in opposition to the interested clamours of the manufacturers, who unjustly claim the exclusive protection of the government, to the manifest injury of the great body of American people.

2d. By inquiries into the best and cheapest systems of cultivation and management of the staple products of our soil and climate, for foreign market and domestic use; and the best method of improving our lands with artificial grasses, and the kinds best adapted to our climate and various soils.

3. By inquiries into the best and cheapest practicable mode of supplying and maintaining the necessary teams for the farm, plantation or road: and the best constructed ploughs, harrows, wagons, carts and implements of husbandry generally.

4th. By inquiries into the best and cheapest mode of feeding, clothing and lodging labourers; and of constructing all necessary buildings, for the farm or plantation: such as barns, stables, shelters for stock and enclosures.

5th. By inquiries into the best method of increasing the quantity and improving the quality of manures and their application, particularly that of plaster.

6th. By inquiries into the best system of rearing and preserving fruit trees, and the possibility of preserving the fruit from frost, blight &c.

Art. 3. There shall be chosen from among the members annually, by ballot, at the April meeting, a President, Vice-President, Secreta-

ry and treasurer: who shall continue in office one year, *Provided*, that in case of deaths, resignation, or from any other cause, a vacancy should occur in either of the offices, before the expiration of the term of such election, the same may be supplied by a new election at the succeeding stated meeting, to serve for the remainder of the term.

The president shall govern the proceedings as usual in deliberative bodies; and at the request of five members, shall call special meetings.

The vice president in the absence of the president shall act as President, and may, when not presiding, serve on committees.

The secretary shall record the proceedings of the society, and sign them with the president and vice president. He shall have in charge all books, pamphlets, and papers of the society, and perform all other duties usually required of a secretary—*Provided*, that if there should accumulate upon the secretary more business than he can conveniently perform, he may be at liberty to call on one or two members for assistance, who shall be bound to afford it.

The treasurer shall keep the accounts of the society, and at each stated meeting, exhibit the state of the funds to a committee appointed to examine the same. He shall receive and collect from the members, their quarterly subscriptions and make an annual report to the society at the April meeting of all delinquents—*Provided*, that no part of the funds shall be applied without the authority of the president, or in case of his absence the vice president, sanctioned by a vote of the society.

Art. 4. There shall be annually appointed at the meeting in July, a corresponding committee, to consist of five members chosen by ballot.

Art. 5. There shall be four stated regular meetings to be held in Clarksville, on the first Thursday in April, on the first Thursday in July, on the first Thursday in October, and on the first Thursday in January.

Art. 6. New members shall be chosen by ballot at one of the stated meetings, and it shall require two thirds of the number of votes given in to admit them.

Art. 7. Each member now belonging to the society, or who may hereafter be admitted to membership (except honorary members) shall annually pay into the hands of the treasurer, the sum of four dollars; one fourth thereof at each regular stated meeting, for the purpose of defraying all necessary expenses of the society, such as premiums, prizes, books, pamphlets, periodical or other journals on Agriculture, improved implements of husbandry and stationary.

Art. 8. There shall be annually appointed by ballot at the regular meeting in April a committee of revision, to consist of five members, who shall report whether any, and if any, what alteration ought to be made in the laws of the society, but no alteration shall take place, unless two thirds of the members present shall concur therein.

Art. 9. A quorum for business shall consist of at least seven members, who shall in the absence of the president and vice president proceed to choose a president pro-tempore. But no application of the funds of the society shall be made, unless one third of the whole number of mem-

bers be present. *Provided*, that in the event of bad weather or from any other cause there shall be a failure in the members to attend any meeting the meeting shall be considered adjourned to that day week.

Art. 10. Any member may withdraw from the society, by sending in a letter of resignation and paying all arrears due the society. And any member who fails to pay his annual contribution for two years successively, shall be considered as withdrawing himself from this society.

A Copy—Test,

CHAS. L. WINGFIELD,
Secretary, R. A. S.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

ARLINGTON SHOES.

MR. EDITOR—I enclose you an extract from the letter of Entwistle, Clog maker from Europe, and now diligently employed in his calling, King street, Alexandria.

"The clogs will last two winters, by oiling or greasing the upper leather, and putting fresh soals on, for there is not half the strain on the upper leather as on a leathern soaled shoe. I myself have put the *sixteenth* pair of soals to one pair of upper leathers. The man was a muslin weaver, wore nothing else winter and summer, the upper leathers he wore *eight* years."

So much for my friend Entwistle, who calculates to furnish these shoes at one dollar per pair, and to mend with thread and nails (until the soals are worn out) gratis.

And now Mr. Editor I hear you exclaim with the Dominie, *Prodigious! Prodigious!!* I see the sons of St. Crispin arise, brandish their awls, and cry, What the devil has gotten into this fellow with his Arlington economics, and his wooden soals. Soals, sir, he has no *soul* at all. I perceive too, a stir on the shop board. The Knights of the needle, become alarmed, and say, what next. We shall soon hear of durable breeches, like those of Hudibras, "that had been at the siege of Bullen." We shall have hickory waistcoats and white oak pantaloons; a good straight waistcoat to the fellow and his economics. Gentle Crafts, forbear! Think not of harm, where no harm is intended. There will always be enough of the vain, the wealthy and the gay, the votaries of pleasure, fashion, and folly, to keep your awls and needles from rusting. We cater not for the rich, but minister to the poor. The clatter we make with our Clogs will not be heard in the Pavilions of the Great, nor participate in the sports of the Toe, among the disciples of Vestris. We have no Dandies in agriculture.—But in "the moss, and on the moor," in the labours of industry, and the toils of the slave, this meritorious innovation will give comfort to thousands, and establish its claim to public patronage, on the basis of public utility.

None other than wooden soaled shoes, can henceforth be used by the labourers on my estates. I am well assured of their benefits in every possible way. We Southerners know that most of the ills to which our slaves are subject, proceed from damps; hence the number of crippled and debilitated negroes to be met with in the south. The leathern soaled shoes, which are given to negroes, are very generally made of indifferent materials, and wile wet are thrust into the fire to

dry, and warm the feet; the wooden soaled shoe is impervious to wet, and will keep the feet dry, warm and comfortable, in the severest weather.

When those shoes are made at home, I should say the cost would be about the third of a dollar per pair, but to those who have not domestic facilities of this sort, surely a dollar per pair, is most reasonable for shoes, warranted to last the winter. I will do myself the pleasure of sending you an Arlington Shoe, *properly ironed*, which I flatter myself will meet your approbation, and that of our agricultural friends generally. As an old servant in the cause, permit me to congratulate you on the extensive benefits which your agricultural work is every day producing in our country, and to hope that increased patronage, may speed you on your way.

GEORGE W. P. CUSTIS.

Arlington House, 24th Oct. 1820.

To the Editor of the American Farmer.

MR. SKINNER,

Sir.—I am the person that first introduced the Wooden soaled Shoes in this country. Major Lewis, of Mount Vernon, has bought them from me this three years, near seventy pair each year, and he finds that his negroes will not wear leather shoes now. These Clogs are so warm in winter, and one pair for each negro per year which cost him \$1 25 per pair. I now offer, them at ONE DOLLAR PER PAIR, men's size, made of good leather, and if the wearer of Clogs will take care to oil the upper leather once a week, they will wear out two pair of soals; I soal them at half the price of new ones. At this rate it only takes one dollar and fifty cents for *two years*, for one man. For the truth of this statement, reference may be had to Major Lewis, and George Mason, Esq. and to G. W. P. Custis' letter of February 1st. in the Farmer, of a saving of 80 per cent. exclusive of the advantage of health. Orders addressed to Isaac Entwistle, Jun. King street, Alexandria, will be attended to.

FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ALBEMARLE.

October 10th, 1820.

Officers and Committees elected to serve for the next year.

James Madison, President.

Thomas M. Randolph, 1st Vice President.

John H. Cocke, 2d do.

Nimrod Bramham, Treasurer.

Peter Minor, Secretary.

Frank Carr, Assistant Secretary.

Committee of Correspondence.

Thomas M. Randolph,

James Barbour,

Thomas G. Watkins,

Wm. D. Meriwether,

and Peter Minor.

Committee of Accounts.

Dabney Minor, Thomas E. Randolph, and

John Winn.

Honorary Members elected at last and present meetings.

Hugh Holmes, Esq. Winchester.

John S. Skinner, Esq. Baltimore.

Don Joseph Correa de Serra, Minister near the

U. S. from Portugal and Brazil.

George W. Erving, Esq. late Minister at Madrid.

Thomas Moore, Esq. Principal Engineer to the

Board of Public Works, of Virginia.

Extract from the Minutes.

P. MINOR, Sec'y.

THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1820.

Of the twelve sheep of the pure Bakewell breed, four remain with the editor of this paper, for sale, and will be delivered here to the agent of any person wishing to purchase for \$25 each, for disposition to fat and the quantity of it, no sheep in the world equals them, and they are decidedly more hardy than the common sheep.

We are under particular obligations to the friend, whoever he may be, who sent us the Kentucky Cattle pamphlet, and should like to know to whom we are indebted for documents so interesting. They shall be recorded in the American Farmer, in the course of two or three weeks. We take this opportunity of expressing our regret, that this journal has not received from the citizens of that patriotic and enterprising state, encouragement in any measure, equal to that which has been bestowed on it, in Virginia and the Carolinas.

We are led, by vanity perhaps, to attribute this to the "deranged state of the currency," rather than to any want of satisfaction on the part of those Farmers of Kentucky, who have honoured us with their patronage.

The New York Agricultural Society meets on Tuesday and Wednesday next. A letter to the editor, dated 24th ult. states that "from present appearances about three hundred animals being entered, and our premiums amounting to \$1700, it will be the greatest display that has ever taken place in the United States"; what a noble scene! where the best passions are excited for the best of purposes.

Late arrivals bring us Agricultural journals down to the 2d October, they contain many valuable articles, which shall be given in their turn.

Present Prices of Country Produce in this Market.

Actual sales of WHEAT—WHITE, 85 to 90 cts.—RED, 75 to 80 cts.—CORN, 36 cts.—RYE, 40 to 41 cts.—OATS, 30 cts.—HAY, per ton \$17 to \$18—STRAW do. \$7 to \$8, FLOUR, from the wagons, \$4 25—WHISKY from do. 36 cts.—PORK, prime pieces per cwt. \$14 to \$14 50—BEEF, do. \$11 to \$13 50—BUTTER, per lb. 31 cts.—EGGS, per dozen, 20 cts.—VEAL, per lb. 6 to 8 cts.—LAMB, per quarter, 37½ to 50 cts.—BEEF, per lb. prime pieces, 8 to 10 cts.—HAMS, 12 to 14 cts.—MIDDINGS, 10 cts.—CHICKENS, per doz. \$2 50—POTATOES, 37½ to 50 cts.—LIVE CATTLE, \$5 50 to \$6—LONDON WHITE LEAD, \$4 25—AMERICAN do. \$3 75—BOILED OIL, \$1 37½—FEATHERS, 50 to 62½ cts.—TAR, \$2 25—TURPENTINE, soft, \$2 25—SPIRITS, do. 35 cts.—PITCH, \$2 25—LARD, 11 to 12 cts.—SHINGLES best Deep Creek, \$8 50, No. Small, \$4 75 to \$5.—FLOORING PLANK, 5-4, \$26, COTTON, Upland, 16 cents—first quality do. will bring 18 cts.—Maryland TOBACCO, 13 hds. first quality, from Patuxent, sold the present week for \$9—9 do. do. second \$17—11 do. first do. \$6 50—16 do. do. seconds, \$4 50—No sales of Virginia Tobacco.

EDWARD J. COALE

BOOKSELLER, BALTIMORE.

HAS FOR SALE,

The Agricultural Almanack,

FOR THE YEAR 1821.

Patronized by the Philadelphia Society for promoting Agriculture.

Besides all the necessary calculations and tables in the common Almanack, it contains a number of useful articles relating to Agriculture, and valuable recipes for domestic uses. It is printed on fine paper, and ornamented with fourteen neat wood cuts, and interleaved with fine blank writing paper, for memoranda. All for twelve and a half cents.

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By M. Carey & Son.

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And may be had of the Booksellers in Baltimore, Frederickburgh, Richmond, Petersburg, Norfolk, Charleston, Savannah, Augusta, and Columbia, (PRICE THREE DOLLARS AND A QUARTER.)

"A view of the cultivation of Fruit Trees, and the management of Orchards and Cider; with accurate descriptions of the most estimable varieties of native and foreign Apples, Pears, Peaches, Plums, and Cherries, cultivated in the middle states of America; Illustrated by cuts of two hundred kinds of fruits of the natural size; intended to explain some of the errors which exist relative to the origin, popular names, and character of many of our fruits, to identify them by accurate descriptions of their properties, and correct delineations of the full size and natural formation of each variety; and to exhibit a system of practice adapted to our climate, in the successive stages of a Nursery, Orchard, and Cider establishment. By Wm. Cox, Esq. of Burlington, New Jersey.

A valuable and interesting Work—very cheap.

The Analectic Magazine.

Conducted by WASHINGTON IRVING and others.

IN 14 VOLUMES OCTAVO.

WITH EIGHTY SIX ENGRAVINGS.

At \$14—original price \$42.

The subscriber has reduced the price of the complete sets of the *Analectic Magazine* from \$3 to \$1 per volume. The series is comprised in fourteen volumes and has been edited at different periods by the following gentlemen: WASHINGTON IRVING, GULIAN C. VERPLANK, J. K. PAULDING, and ROBERT WALSH, Esqrs. and the original matter contained in it, from their pens, would alone form several volumes. In addition to this, the work comprises articles from several other of the best writers in America, including a number of scientific papers from Judge Cooper, besides selections from the most approved and popular foreign Journals. It is embellished with 86 Engravings, including upwards of 40 Portraits, among which are the following, viz. Chief Justices Marshall, Ellsworth, and Parsons; Dr. Franklin, James A. Bayard, Fisher Ames, Joel Barlow, Benjamin West, Patrick Henry, A. J. Dallas, Rev. Dr. Dwight, Robert Fulton, Drs. Rush, Wistar, Dorsey, Ramsay, and Jenner, Commodores Decatur, Bainbridge, Perry, Chauncey, Hull, Lawrence, Jones, Porter, Biddle, Warrington, Stewart, M'Donough, Blakely, Shubrick, and Gamble, (of the United States Navy) Generals Pike, Scott, and Brown, Thomas Campbell, Walter Scott, Lord Byron, Madame de Stael, Napoleon, &c., &c.

Views of Richmond, Boston, Fort M'Henry, Ticonderoga Forts, Passaic Falls, Miss Edgeworth's Residence, Newstead Abbey, (seat of Lord Byron,) Edinburgh, Naples, &c.

Plans of the battle of Bunker's Hill, and of Burgoyne's Defeat, with other interesting engravings, and a vignette title page to each volume.

The fourteen 8vo. volumes, containing upwards of 500 pages each, handsomely printed, are offered at the low price of \$1 per volume in boards, \$1 50 well bound.

M. THOMAS,

(108 Chesnut Street, Philadelphia—Agent.)

There are no perfect sets to be had, except as above, and the price will be raised as the number of those decreases.

IN A FEW WEEKS WILL BE PUBLISHED

By Abraham Small, No. 165, Chesnut Street, Philadelphia.

A NEW AND IMPROVED EDITION OF

Willich's Domestic Encyclopædia,

IN THREE VOLUMES OCTAVO:

Corrected, amended, and rendered more valuable by many additions, particularly in the articles relating to Domestic Medicine, the Veterinary and Culinary Arts.

BY THOMAS COOPER, Esq.

PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY.

Some years ago Dr. WILLICH of London published a work under the title of DOMESTIC ENCYCLOPÆDIA; a work, not intended to present a full account and present state of all Arts and Sciences, Geography, Biography, and History, but a brief view of those articles of knowledge which a Master and Mistress of a Family would wish to be informed about—a PARLOUR DICTIONARY, not of words but of things—a book of FAMILY REFERENCE, in a moderate compass.

The public felt the want of such a book; and it sold with great rapidity. In this country Dr. Mease was engaged to edit a revised and improved American edition of it. He did so; and added greatly to the value of the work. A very large edition was sold, and the public now call for another.

The American edition by Dr. Mease was in five volumes octavo; objections have been made to the size and to the price of the work. A new edition is now offered, in which these objections have been attended to. It will be comprised in three volumes octavo.

It is requisite to give some account of the Improvements proposed in the present edition; for it ought to keep pace with the knowledge of the day.—The Publisher has applied to Professor Cooper to superintend it, who has undertaken to do so.

Many of the articles of Dr. Willich's work were useless; many were unnecessarily long; many contained erroneous views and opinions, which the present state of science requires to be corrected; many articles of great use, and appropriate to such a work, require to be added. The articles of Domestic Medicine, in particular, require alterations and additions; the Culinary, the Veterinary part of the work is too brief in the former plan. Much that a family would desire to know is omitted, and much is contained in the work that tends to increase its bulk and its price, without adding to its utility. To all these points the present Editor, Mr. Cooper, will carefully attend; and he promises, without new modelling the work, or encroaching unnecessarily on Dr. Willich's part of it, to make such additions and corrections, as will render it a truly useful family book, and conformable to its original title and intention, a DOMESTIC ENCYCLOPÆDIA.

CONDITIONS.

I.—It shall be printed in three large handsome Octavo Volumes, on a superfine paper.

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Subscriptions will be received by the Booksellers and by the Editor of this paper.

BALTIMORE,

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY,

BY JOHN S. SKINNER, EDITOR.